

## **Opening remarks**

**Takis Athanasopoulos**

**Chairman of the Board of IOBE**

**The Crises of Others: Greece and the Eurozone Periphery**

**Athens, 21 April 2016**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you to today's event, entitled 'The Crises of Others: Greece and the Eurozone Periphery', organized by IOBE the Foundation for Economic & Industrial Research. On behalf of the Board of Directors of IOBE, I would like to firstly express my gratitude to the family of Michael Dacolias, in the memory of whom today's event is organized. The family has generously supported our Foundation in organizing this event, as well as undertaking a related research study.

As you may be aware, IOBE is a private, non-profit, research organization, which was established 40 years ago with the dual purpose of:

- a) Promoting research on current problems and prospects of the Greek economy and its sectors
- b) Generating reliable information, analysis and original proposals of high value to policy makers

IOBE aspires to be pro-active, that is, it seeks to identify at an early stage economic issues that can become crucial in the future; to propose timely solutions for these issues and contribute to the relevant public debate.

In this context of activities, IOBE closely examines the dynamics of the EU economic integration. Thus, the implications of the 2008 global financial crisis for the European economy, as well as the causes of the related crises in the countries of the Eurozone periphery, are topics of important research interest.

The general goal of this event is to shed light to the characteristics, experiences and outcomes of the Eurozone periphery countries that went through Economic Adjustment Programmes, during the last years, or implemented similar fiscal consolidation policies and structural reforms. I also hope that some conclusions can be drawn, even indirectly, regarding the ongoing third Adjustment Programme in Greece.

I am sure we all look forward to listening to the analyses and views of the distinguished experts who have kindly accepted our invitation to participate in this event.

Thank you for your attention.